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II ALL-UNION ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

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II ALL UNION ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Following is the translation of an article by A. V. Mikheyev entitled: "II Vsesoyuznaya Ornitologicheskaya Konferentsiya" (English version above) in Zoologicheskii Zhurnal (Zoological Journal), Vol. 39, No. 2, Moscow, 1960, Pages 318-320.

The II All-Union Ornithological Conference took place in Moscow from 18 to 25 August 1959.

More than 600 ornithologists, representing all of the Union Republics and all basic organizations undertaking zoological work, took part in the work of the conference. Also, ornithologists of China, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, and England visited the conference.

The advance listing provided by the Organizing Committee of the conference showed that more than 700 people are employed in scientific research in the field of ornithology in the Soviet Union.

The contents of the papers shows clearly the condition of ornithological research in the Soviet Union and its basic direction. From 233 papers included in the program of the conference, 11 were dedicated to the problems of systematics and evolution, 5 to paleontology, 16 to parasitology, 78 to ecology, 26 to morphology and development, 9 to physiology, 48 to ornitho-geography, and faunistics, 20 to so-called applied ornithology, and 10 to papers with various subjects.

The oldest zoologist in the Soviet Union, the founder and director of the Darwin Museum, Professor A. F. Kots, opened the conference. In his introductory remarks on conditions and problems of Soviet ornithology, G. P. Dement'yev dwelled on the research produced after the First All-Union Ornithological Conference (1956) on questions of international contacts, preparation of cadres of ornithologists, publishing of literature, and the organization of zoological science, and gave a view of the condition of work on the basic problems of ornithology and proposed questions for the future. Then N. A. Gladkov read a paper on the theme of "Birds and Space," in which he

explained the problem of spatial connections of birds in seasonal migrations, in times of nesting and settling. In conclusion, A. F. Kots gave information on works of the noted Russian zoologist of the past century, E. F. Lorents.

Further work of the conference took place in three sections. In all, there were 24 sessions in which 190 papers were heard.

Papers and communications were dedicated to the problems of systematics and evolution of birds, their ecology, ornitho-geography, faunistics, paleontology, morphology, physiology parasitology, migration of birds, applied ornithology (the agricultural, medicinal, sport-hunting and industrial meaning of birds), etc.

From the separate papers dedicated to the question of ecology, we recall the communication of A. N. Formozov (Moscow) on the distribution, number, and several characteristics of the conduct of birds, allowing one to predict earlier the approach of natural happenings important for economic practice; of Ye. M. Derim (Orekhovo-Zuyevo), on the results of experimental research into the processes of hatching and rearing of chicks of various forest birds, deepening our understanding of the instincts of birds; of V. M. Galushin (Moscow) on the quantitative evaluation of the activities of the black kite on the teal and landrail in the Oka preserve; of E. V. Kumari (Tartu) on the contemporary methods of studying flight of birds. From papers on ornitho-geography, one must note the report of I. A. Dolgushin (Alma Ata) on the basic centers of formation of fauna of birds of the zonal steps of Eurasia; of S. V. Kirikov (Moscow) on the historic changes of area and number of birds in the territory of the Soviet Union, compiled by the author from data in manuscripts from the last few centuries; of F. I. Strautman (L'vov) on the mutual penetration of aviarian fauna of the lowlands, and of the mountain systems of Carpathia, Crimea and Caucasus; of A. K. Rustamov (Ashkhabad) on the ornithological ties of the Kopet Dag with Girikaniya; of P. V. Plesskiy (Kirov) on the ornithological fauna of Kirov Oblast' -- the result of a 30 year labor of the author; of Ye. S. Korotkyevich (leader of the V Antarctic Expedition, Leningrad) on the origin of ornithological fauna of the Antarctic; P. L. Ben' (Moscow) on the origin of ornithological fauna of the high mountain landscape of the southern mountain chains of the Palearctic.

From among the communications on systematics and evolution, we note the paper of A. B. Kistyakovskiy (Kiev) on the present situation of problems of field selection;

from papers on morphology, of B. G. Novikov (Kiev) on experimental analysis of seasonal forming processes of birds; on physiology, of L. V. Krushinskiy (Moscow) on the study of conduct of birds; on parasitology, of Yu. A. Isakov (Moscow) on the medical meaning of birds and present conditions of their study; on applied ornithology, of A. N. Formozov (Moscow) on the practical meaning of birds, and of S. M. Semenov (Kherson) on the biologic basis of attraction of birds.

One session of the conference was dedicated to papers of the foreign guests. In it, the following communications were given: N. Boyev (Bulgaria), on the history and biology of the annulated turtledove of Bulgaria, K. Gentz (German Democratic Republic) on several aspects of the conduct of the greater cormorant; G. Mauersberger (German Democratic Republic) several notes of ornitho-geography of the Palearctic; Shildmakher (German Democratic Republic) on annual cycles of the endocrine system and changes of matter in migrant birds; K. Dobrovolsky (Poland) on several types of marine birds penetrating up the valley of the Vistula to the interior of the continent; M. Ozefik (Poland) on the changes of the southwest border of lentils in the past two centuries; Ya. Ganzak (Czechoslovakia) on the biology of nesting of wild ducks in southern Czechoslovakia; V. Gherni (Czechoslovakia) on the activity of birds in connection with conditions of illumination; and G. Mountfort (England) on ornithological research in southern Spain (with movies).

A number of scientific and popular scientific professional and amateur motion picture dedicated to birds were shown at the conference: "The Biology of the Cuckoo" (Consultant Ye. K. Vilks), showing excellently the mechanism and nature of the throwing out of eggs and chicks from the nest by the young cuckoo; "Island of Pelicans" (Alma Ata Film Studio, I. A. Dolgushin, consultant), giving a clear presentation of colonial nesting of these birds; "In Tropic Jungles" (Director A. M. Zguridi, consultants A. G. Bannikov and S. S. Turov), drawing the nature of the forests of southern China; "The Nature of the Antarctic" (taken by V. I. Tarashchuk); "Ornithological Station of the Academy of Sciences USSR in Rybach'ye" (taken by S. M. Uspenskiy) and others. Also, G. Mountfort showed an interesting color movie on the nature of Spain. A tape recording of voices and songs of birds made by B. N. Veprintsevsky was demonstrated. This method of study, only at its start with us, has a future and is especially important for preparing cadres of young ornithologists and for

educational undertakings in zoology at higher educational institutions.

A number of exhibitions were organized for the participants in the conference: an exhibit of artist-animalists, a taxidermy exhibit, an exhibition of the newest Russian and foreign literature, an exhibit of photography "Birds in Nature," and an exhibit of the work of parks on banding birds and saving birds. The majority of delegates were able to take part in special excursions organized during the conference; in Moscow, to the Pre-Oka Terrace Preserve, and to the Zvenigorod Biological Station of Moscow University.

It was noted at the conference that in the time since the First All-Union Ornithological Conference, work on ornithology has received broader scope. The number of regional scientific conferences and meetings on studies of birds which have taken place from 1956 to 1959 bears particular witness to this.

The study of the migrations of birds in the territory from the White Sea to the western border of the Soviet Union became greatly broadened and planned in the Baltic area, in the republics of Central Asia, in Kazakhstan, in the Ukraine, and in the Tatar SSR. A net of ornithological stations publishing valuable summary work on fauna of birds of the Ukraine, Turkmenia, Khazaria, Uzbekistan, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and several oblast's of our country was organized in the Soviet Union. An ornithological laboratory was organized at Moscow University. International ties in the field of ornithology were strengthened (particularly of Soviet ornithologists in the XII International Ornithological Congress and the selection of them for the leading organ of the Congress -- the International Ornithological Committee and its presidium, participation in a number of foreign ornithological conferences in Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic; the visiting of the Soviet Union by ornithologists of various countries; simultaneous international ornithological investigations in the Baltic area and in the region of the Black Sea, etc.

At the same time, the conference noted that along with great successes, there were recognized disputes or insufficient scope of work in a number of directions. This related to morphology, in particular to functional morphology, to physiology, and research of conduct of birds, connected with it, to experimental research into the problem of orientation. Regardless of the significant strength of work on migration of birds, it is still insufficient. There is still a lack of all union regulation of bird

protection. Teaching literature, methodic guides and handbooks are insufficiently published, and popular scientific literature is little published. The great necessity of the organization of the publishing of an ornithological magazine in the Soviet Union is felt.

The conference noted that with the aim of further successful development of Soviet ornithology as a biological discipline, it is necessary to develop equally all divisions of this science. For this, special attention should be turned to the conduct of manifold and systematic research in the very broadest plan: in the ecologic, physiologic, geographic, and morphologic sense, to the strengthening of work on population ecology, numbers of birds and its dynamics; to a broader development of research in the area of medicine, agriculture, veterinary ornithology, and parasitology; to the cooperation of broad layers of the population in ornithological research and practical work in this area, and to the close ties of all establishments and organizations concerned with the questions of the use, preservation, and enrichment of natural resources.

The conference noted the practical route of further development of ecological, faunistical and biogeographical research into ornithological material, in the area of studies of migration and wintering of birds, in study of systematics, physiology, morphology, and paleontology of birds. The conference strengthened the decision of the First All-Union Ornithological Conference on the necessity of forming an All-Union Ornithological Society in the USSR.

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